Jiken Notes

A Case of Dragonslayer

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Preface

Title:
A Case of Dragonslayer
□□□□ (lit. Murdered Dragon Case)

Known officially in English as *The Case of the Dragon Slayer: A Jiken Mystery*, though never published (read more at the bottom of the preface section).

One of six current novels in the *Jiken* series (□□, meaning case or incident. All six novels have it in their title), known otherwise in Japan as the *War Mediator* series (□□□□□. This is the official series name, but *Jiken* seems to be preferred. The novels prominently follow War Mediators). The series saw its last entry in 2016, though a seventh entry, □□□□□ (lit. Strange Empire Case), was announced following the sixth entry and has been in the works for some years.

Publication:
June 6th, 2000 by Kodansha
□□□

Republished April 20th, 2018 by Kodansha. Changes include the replacement of Kaneko's art (probably because of copyright) and an added epilogue.
□□□

Author:
Kouhei Kadano
□□□ □□

Born December 12th, 1968. Most known for his *Boogiepop* series of novels. Other works include the *Beat's Discipline*, *Soul Drop*, *Miss Shizuru* and *Emperoider Spin* series. Most of his works seem to connect back chronologically to *Boogiepop* in one way or another, aside from his one-shot *Purple Haze Feedback* novel for *Jojo's Bizarre Adventure* (obviously).

Artists:
Kazuma Kaneko, 2000 release.
□□□□

Born September 20th, 1964. Largely known for his character, demon and persona designs in Atlus' *Shin Megami Tensei* and *Persona* video game series. His character designs (for Dragonslayer) are mentioned in detail in the novel, so design work likely started during the initial stages of writing (early-ish 2000, probably).

Yasushi Suzuki, 2018 release.
□□ □□

He doesn't seem too well-known, but he has some great pieces for various smaller games and novels. As mentioned previously, the pieces he drew replaced Kaneko's art in the 2018 reprint, which is a bit jarring since the novel still describes Kaneko's

designs, so you end up with character illustrations that sort of look like Kaneko's but are different enough to not infringe on copyright. Some designs are still changed despite contradicting descriptions in the book, i.e. dragons are described as not having a traditional reptilian appearance, Suzuki's design looks like a big lizard. This isn't to discredit his amazing work, I just personally prefer Kaneko's designs.

Story:
The novel follows three members of the Seven Seas Alliance; Reize, Heathrow and ED, on their journey to find the culprit behind the murder of one of the world's seven Dragons, so-thought immortal creatures. Failure could result in a full-scale war between two countries.

Characters:

- Captain Reize Riskasse (Protagonist)
  - □□□□□□□□□□
- Major Heathrow Kristoff (The Knight of the Wind)
  - □□□□□□□□□□□ (□□□□)
- Edworth Theseworks Markwhistle (usually abbreviated as ED, or later E.T.M.)
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Princess Tsukushi
  - □□□□□□□□□□)
- King Shirasagi
  - □□—□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Nanya Minkafreaky
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Sonya Minkafreaky
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Ether Inga Mugandu III
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Ralsarov R
  - □□□□□□R
- Marmajar Tiktum
  - □□□□□□□□□□□□□□
- Taranto Georgeson
  - □□□□□□□□□□□

There are a few other minor characters who don't have art and generally aren't worth mentioning. You can read more about the listed characters in the art notes.

English Translation:
The novel was fully translated into English as *The Case of the Dragon Slayer: A Jiken Mystery*, but the release kept getting pushed back and Kodansha eventually pulled the rights (see below for the original translator's comment). You'll see some reviews for it online from sites that received review copies, through which I found these official English names; Major Heathrow Kristoff, Edwarth Thizwerks Markwhistle and

Captain Reize Risukasse. Heathrow's name is the same, but I'll just stick with the names used in the characters section, pronunciation is clearer on them.

If you want to read the translation, you'd have to track down the original reviewers and ask if they still have their review copy and are willing to sell it or something. I talked to a couple of reviewers, neither of whom still had their copy.

Notes

None of these art pieces have official names, the file names were chosen by me for storage purposes. The signatures date all of these pieces to the year 2000 (for the original release).

My scans were colour corrected in Photoshop, but the half-tones often blend weird in Google Drive's image preview and don't display how I intend them to. They should look fine once downloaded or opened in (most) image editing software.

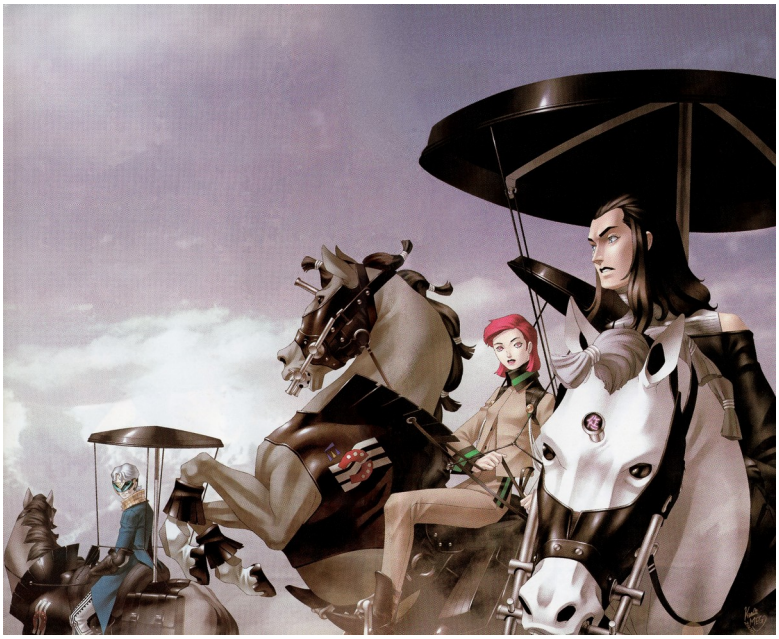
Anything highlighted in black is a spoiler, just select the text to read them.

Art - Dragons

- The first page of the book. All colour artwork is printed at the beginning, probably as a cost-saving method. This piece features a big Dragon in the foreground, the silhouette of another against the moon in the background. They have 6 eyes and 4 arms with 6 fingers on each hand. They're regarded as extremely intelligent and powerful beings that are able to talk to people and fly. There are 7 of them throughout the world. [redacted].

Art - Heathrow, Reize and ED

- Pages 2-3. This art features (right to left) Heathrow, Reize and ED riding horses across what I believe to be Kugis Plain. This takes place early on in the novel when they leave Romiazarus. More on these characters:
    - Major Heathrow Kristoff. A high-ranking member of the Seven Seas Alliance. He’s a pretty famous swordsman known as the Knight of the Wind. He’s been friends with ED since an early age (these three main characters are all about the same age. I think it’s mentioned they’re around their mid-20s). ED calls him Heath and says he has the inherent qualities of a king.
    - Captain Reize Riskasse, the protagonist of the novel. A lot of people seem to think ED is the protagonist of the entire series for some reason, which is very much not true. She’s a captain in the Seven Seas Alliance, though not as high-ranking as Heathrow. Reize and Heathrow knew each other and attended the same school when they were teenagers, but she doesn’t meet ED until the start of the book. Many scenes in the novel hint at Reize having a romantic interest in Heathrow.
    - Edworth Theseworks Markwhistle, ED (Theseworks Markwhistle is his last name, pretty big). He’s one of the Seven Seas Alliance’s 23 war mediators (an independent person or party that settles disputes between two sides. War between two countries, in this case). He calls himself a researcher of Interface Interferometry, more on this later. He’s eccentric and extremely intelligent (he’s able to calculate 7 to the power of 7 quickly in his head in the third book (823,543, btw)). He’s anemic and is able to dislocate his joints with ease to escape from restraints, though this is barely brought up again in later books.



Art - Supporting Characters

- Pages 4-5. These are all of the main supporting characters against the backdrop of a Dragon’s head (the Dragons sure are big). I try to remove text from images when I can, but it was too hard to do with this piece. I’ll pair a screenshot with each character’s name and give them:

  - Princess Tsukushi. The main characters visit her in regards to the Dragon’s muder, her dead uncle was a suspect. She’s well known both within and outside the Duchy of St. Halloran, in which she is regent to her half-brother, the king (a Duchy is a country, territory or domain ruled by someone hierarchically second to the king or queen. It could also translate as Principality, which is a state ruled by a prince or princess). The book mentions she’s around 17. She reappears in the beginning of the third book along with her cousin, Princess Yamiko, both of whom are renowned as being exceedingly beautiful. It’s no

exaggeration to say she’s the most famous and popular state power in the world.

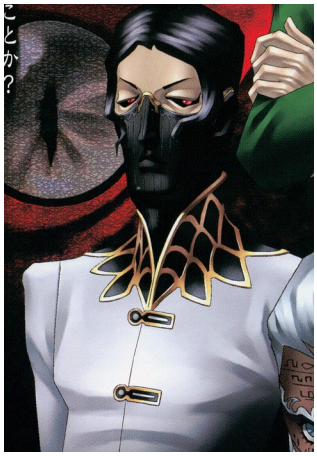
- King Shirasagi. The book mentions he’s 7, recently turned 8 by the time of the 3rd book. He’s the half-brother of Princess Tsukushi, though I can’t really remember any of the familial details. He pees his pants in the one and only scene he appears in, good job.

- Nanya Minkafreaky. She has a history with ED and made his mask (as you can see, she also wears one similar to his). [redacted] She runs “The Other Side of the Water”, a centre dedicated to the research of Interface Interferometry, more on this later. Descended from the Marquis of Zyrus. The book mentions she’s around her late twenties to early thirties. She definitely has hair befitting of someone with the surname Minkafreaky.

- Sonya Minkafreaky, Nanya’s daughter. The book says she “looks 14 or 15”, meaning Nanya likely had her when she was young.

- Ether Inga Mugandu III, another suspect of the Dragon’s murder. The current head of the Sokima Gestals and ruler of Pirate’s Island, a collection of 7 large ships in the middle of the sea, in which the main attraction is gambling. Though not mentioned until the third book, his parents are Airila Mugandu and Neeson (Mugandu II. Took on the name after Mugandu 1st’s death, so he isn’t actually related to Mugandu 1st), Airila is Mugandu 1st’s daughter. He’s been hiding his whole life to prevent assassination and his body is covered with defensive spells (these are all the tattoo looking things on him. It’s revealed in the 2nd book that a man named Neegusanger placed these on him and Mugandu 1st). He’s interested in mixology and hides in plain sight with magical camouflage as a bartender/waiter, hence the very bartender-y looking suit. He’s described as extremely pretty and young-looking. Speaking of, he looks a lot like Pucci from Jojo, but this novel came out months before Pucci’s character was revealed. He’s probably the most interesting and most recurring side character in the series.

- Ralsarov R. An assassin and another suspect. His father was Lekmas Lehrich, king of the Holy Dynasty of Lehrich (also known as the Assassination Dynasty, pretty nasty people). Lekmas was said to have 70 wives and copulated with his servants, one of which was Ralsarov's mother. Ralsarov seems to be deluded with the idea that he's some kind of royalty, despite being the bastard son of a collapsed Dynasty's dead king. [redacted]. He's described as having thin limbs and broad shoulders. Interestingly enough, the Dynasty's lineage is now only preserved in the Marquises of Zyrus, ancestors of Nanya and Sony Minkafreaky, making them and Ralsarov somewhat blood related.

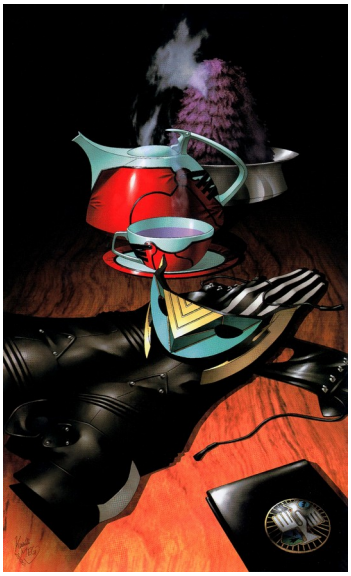


- Marmajar Tiktum. Another suspect in the Dragon's muder. He's known as the most powerful man in the world, a "warrior among warriors". He is a gentle man with a noble soul worthy of speaking to Dragons. Even in his retirement, his combat ability and strength still far surpass that of the greatest swordsman in the world, Heathrow. [redacted] He lost his hometown when he was young

in a volcanic eruption, venturing the world and overthrowing the tyrannical ruler Melanza Larazloch.

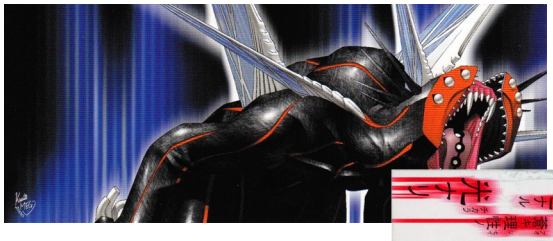
Art - ED’s Possessions

- Page 6. Artwork featuring ED’s mask, gloves, spellbook, teacup and teapot (which he is said to carry around with him. The tea is called either remi or lemi tea, can’t remember) and an unknown plant (probably related to the tea).

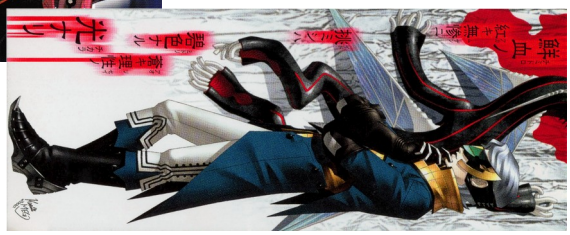


Bookmark - ED and the Dragon

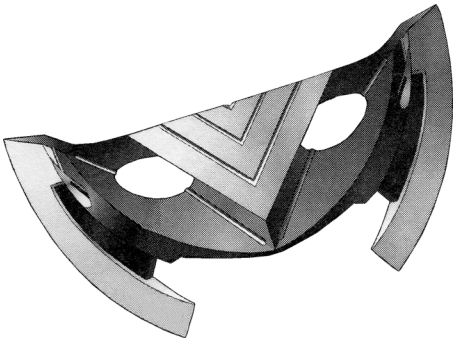
- One of two known bookmarks released for Dragonslayer. The other one which I haven’t scanned can be seen below, courtesy of Primaeros (neither of my 2 physical copies came with this one, I have 4 copies of this book for some reason). The one I have depicts ED and what seems to be the dead Dragon.



Chapter 1 - ED’s Mask

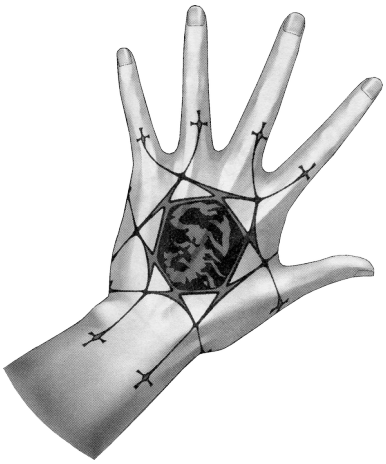


- ED’s mask. He never takes it off. These masks are generally worn by researchers of Interface Interferometry. Interface Interferometry is the study of the interaction between worlds, specifically the Interface World (in which the Jiken series takes place) and the “Other Side of the Water”, which actually turns out to be the world in which Kouhei Kadano’s Boogiepop novels take place (and by extension most of his other novels). These two are parallel worlds. A few items have traveled over from the Other Side to the Interface World, including; ED’s gun, scissors, cars, crosses and a novel by Boogiepop character Seiichi Kirima, [redacted]. In Kadano’s “Beyond the Dragon’s Skies”, a baby named Kunio Koryou transports to the Other Side from the Interface World, he grows up to become a member of Boogiepop’s main antagonistic force, the Towa Organization.



Chapter 2 - Death Mark

- A death mark placed on ED’s left hand by the officials of Romiazarus (looks like a little scorpion). The mark will kill him after 30 days unless ED solves the case and returns to Romiazarus. The mark his covered by his glove most of the time, though.



Chapter 3 - Pistol Arm

- ED’s previously mentioned revolver from the Other Side. Nobody knows what a gun is, so they just call it a pistol arm. ED carries it with him at all times and uses it to [redacted].

Chapter 4 - Chips and Dice

- Chips and dice from Pirate’s Island. In chapter 4, Reize plays a form of poker against Taranto Georgeson, purposefully alternating between winning and losing with Heathrow’s help to draw out the game, hoping to garner an audience and attract the attention of Mugandu III. Georgeson plays a larger role in the third book, but he’s not worth mentioning much here.

Chapter 5 - Dragon

- Another artwork of a Dragon, the same art from the bookmark that I don’t have. Not much to say about this, there’s a coloured version from the website in the Extra folder. You can read more about Dragons above.

Chapter 6 - Ralsarov’s Pipe

- A pipe given to Ralsarov’s mother by Lekmas Lehrich. The emblem on the side is that of the Holy Dynasty of Lehrich. Read more about Ralsarov and Lehrich above.

Chapter 7 - Maskless ED

- ED without his mask, he looks suspiciously like David Bowie. The tattoo on his eyelid is an Ophion snake, symbolising his former status as a Child of Ophion. The Ophion Children were a group of refugees. Reize speculates ED learnt to dislocate his joints when he was a refugee (if I remember right, the book mentions these guys not being treated the best).

Chapter 8 - ED’s Mask

- Just ED’s mask with inverted colours (the outline isn’t inverted, though). Read more about this in Chapter 1’s art description.

Cover - A Case of Dragonslayer.

- Not much to say about this either. ED and the dead dragon can be seen on the cover inside a cave in Romiazarus. That big white sticker with barcodes and ISBN stuff is actually printed on, so I can’t remove it for scanning, unfortunately.